



News Release

Arizona Department of Public Safety

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MAN SUSPECTED OF IMPERSONATING A POLICE OFFICER ARRESTED

Arizona Department of Public Safety detectives arrested a man suspected of impersonating a police officer in various unsolved cases dating back to 2003.

On at least three instances, the suspect, Robert Castaneda Jr. (50) of Cashion, was seen in security surveillance video at a DPS facility, allegedly posing as an undercover police officer. It's suspected that he preyed on undocumented aliens, taking their personal property before "booking them." His method of operation was consistent in each video appearance. He entered a public area of a DPS building escorting a subject seeming to be "in custody". He directed the "arrested" subject to sit on a bench, and then left, supposedly to return. When Castaneda didn't return, the arrestees simply walked out.

This morning, DPS Detective Tom Kimbro, of the General Investigations Squad, was assigned the case. After viewing still photos taken from the DPS surveillance video, Kimbro began his investigation. Approximately 30 minutes later (and with unbelievable luck), Kimbro spotted the suspect on a downtown Phoenix sidewalk. Castaneda was immediately arrested.

Castaneda has been turned over to the Phoenix Police Department for questioning in similar cases.